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Hispanic Awareness Month begins Sept. 15 at Georgia Southern

AUGUST 29, 2006

The Multicultural Student Center at Georgia Southern University will host Hispanic Awareness Month Friday, Sept. 15, through Sunday, Oct. 15.

‘The month encompasses several historical events, including Mexican Independence Day and El Dia de la Raza,’ said Consuela Pender, director of the Multicultural Student Center. ‘Our intention is to have students come away with an increased understanding and awareness of the rich diversity that makes up Hispanic culture through both educational and entertainment opportunities.’

On Thursday, Sept. 21, students, faculty and staff will gather to discuss how new immigration policies relate to the United States Constitution in the Russell Union, Room 2080, at noon. The panel discussion is sponsored by the Multicultural Student Center, Financial Aid, Hispanic Student Association and the Center for Latino Outreach.

At 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 26, the movie ‘Walkout’ will be shown in the Russell Union Theater. The film is the true story of a young Mexican American high school teacher and a group of students in East Los Angeles who staged a peaceful walkout to protest the injustices of the public school system.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, and Wednesday, Oct. 4, a Clothing Drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Russell Union Commons. Clothing donated will be given to families in need of assistance within the Hispanic community.

The panel discussion ‘Hispanic Influence in America’ will take place at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the Russell Union, Room 2080. The panel will discuss the influences of Hispanic cultures on American society. Also, Hispanic musician Javier Medoza will perform at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom for ‘First Wednesday.’ His performance is sponsored by Eagle Entertainment.

A Fiesta in the Pavilion will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Activity Center Pavilion. The Fiesta will celebrate Hispanic culture and will have food tastings, demonstrations and music.

Free salsa dance lessons will be offered Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom and Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. in the College Plaza Dance Studio located behind Wendy’s. Participants will learn the salsa, meringue and samba. On Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m., they can show what they learned at a Salsa Dance in the Russell Union Ballroom. Free food and music will be provided.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Student Center at 912-681-5409.

COBA's Corporate Leadership Council holds inaugural meeting

AUGUST 29, 2006

Finding the perfect way to attract and retain high-achieving students is every college dean's goal, and Ronald Shiffler, dean of the College of Business Administration (COBA) at Georgia Southern University, has found a way that seems to work.

Shiffler developed COBA's Corporate Leadership Council, an elite group that brings students and corporate sponsors together four times each year to learn about the concept of leadership.

At the inaugural meeting of the council, held Friday, Aug. 25, State Senator Jack Hill, a military veteran, shared his thoughts on leadership with 34 students and their corporate sponsors.

'Remember that values and integrity are timeless,' said Hill. 'In trying times, your beliefs will help get you through anything.'

'The idea for the Corporate Leadership Council came from two directions,' said Shiffler. 'First, we want to retain freshman and sophomore business students, and we believe that membership on the Corporate Leadership Council will help keep them involved and interested.'

'Second, we want to develop a group of student ambassadors that will represent both COBA and Georgia Southern well. These students will be available to help at University events, at COBA events, and to interact with alumni and the community.'

Building the Council did take some work on Shiffler's part. He began by securing contributions of \$10,000 each from three companies, Wachovia, Watkins Real Estate, and UPS. Each of those contributions was divided into ten \$1,000 scholarships, and those scholarships were used to attract high-achieving freshman students to business majors.

In addition, he used scholarship funds from COBA's Carter Leadership endowment to fund four more scholarships. Those 34 scholarship recipients make up the student portion of the Corporate Leadership Council, and leaders from the three companies comprise the corporate portion.

'I came to Georgia Southern for Scholars' Day last year,' said Courtney Samuels, a freshman accounting major from Norcross. 'I heard about the Corporate Leadership Council, and it sounded good, so I went for an interview and ended up with a scholarship.'

To remain a member of the Corporate Leadership Council, students must remain a business major, maintain a 3.0 GPA, and provide service for a COBA activity or event.

Additional meetings of the Council are planned for Oct. 6, when representatives from Wachovia will speak; Feb. 9, when representatives from Watkins Real Estate will speak; and Mar. 30, when a representative from UPS will speak.

Shiffler knows his work is not over, because he will need to enlist companies to give next year's scholarships. But with the first Corporate Leadership Council meeting complete, it's clear that both students and corporate sponsors are pleased with the initial result.

To learn more about the Corporate Leadership Council and the scholarship program, call the COBA Dean's Office at 912-681-5106.